

REMARKS

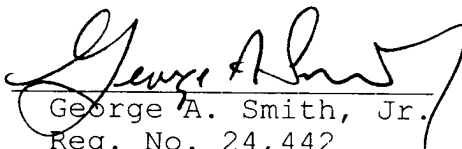
Claim 6 is amended in substantially the same manner in which claim 3 was previously amended. Claim 6 now recites a "thick resin layer" and that "all of said thick resin layer either overlies or underlies the base layer at any location along" the paper transport path. Claim 6 also requires the "thickness of the opposite side edge parts of the thick resin layer" to be "smaller than that of the middle part thereof."

These limitations distinguish the invention from Stigberg. As shown in Stigberg's FIG. 5, Stigberg's polymeric coating 56 has a reduced portion (at the left of FIG. 5), but the reduced portion does not overlie or underlie the reinforcing web 50. Thus, claim 6, and its dependent claims 7, 8, and 16 can be found allowable for the same reason that claims 3 - 5 and 15 were found allowable.

Reconsideration of the application, and allowance of claims 3-8, 15 and 16, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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